

Perfected Love in the Present Day:

T.S. Eliot's Adaptation of *Revelations*
of Divine Love in Little Gidding

**Who was
T.S. Eliot?**

T.S. Eliot, Poet and Man



- Uniting reason and emotion
- Search for meaning amidst chaos
- Faith and the journey of a soul

Four Quartets:

- Burnt Norton (1936)
- East Coker (1940)
- The Dry Salvages (1941)
- Little Gidding (1942)



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Little Gidding:

- Christian mysticism
- Time + memory
- Discovery
- (divine) Love
- Sin + salvation



Sin is Behovely, but
All shall be well, and
All manner of thing shall be well.

(Little Gidding 166-169)

Julian of Norwich, mystic



***Why* include Julian?**

- “transcendent calm”(Gordon 391)
- “note of attainment”(Gordon 383)

Why include Julian?

- “transcendent calm”(Gordon 391)
- “note of attainment”(Gordon 383)
- AND?

Should scholarship continue to neglect the importance of Julian's message in *Little Gidding*, we will fail to achieve the moral and spiritual growth Eliot sought for us. To fully evaluate Lady Julian's (and Eliot's) assertion that all shall be well despite the dire state of society, we must discuss the ways in which Eliot employs Lady Julian's traditional mysticism to reach readers in the present day.

Revelations of Divine Love

- Divine Call
- Prayer
- Illumination
- Sin
- Peace



Little Gidding

- Divine Call
- Sin
- Illumination
- Prayer
- Peace



**With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this
Calling**

**We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.**

(Little Gidding 238-242)

Why Julian?



- Uniting reason and emotion
- Search for meaning amidst chaos
- Faith and the journey of a soul

1. Uniting reason and emotion

- Contemplative prayer
- Intellectual exposure to faith
- Historical and traditional impact



2. Finding meaning in chaos

- WWI and WWII / Black Death
- Personal failure and disarray
- Shall all be well?



3. (Modern) journey of a soul

- Revival: 14th century and now
- Recognition of audience
- Perfected Love still possible



Julian's Contribution:

- “transcendent calm”(Gordon 391)
 - “note of attainment”(Gordon 383)
- Contemplative emphasis
 - Hope in Perfected Love
 - Framework for growth



Works Cited

Lyndall Gordon. *T.S. Eliot: An Imperfect Life*. 1998.

Julian of Norwich. *Revelations of Divine Love*. 1670.

T.S. Eliot. *Four Quartets*. 1943.

Thank you!